

APPENDIX B:
BARRATT'S CHAPEL NATIONAL
REGISTER NOMINATION FORM



K-103

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

NAME		Delaware	
COMMON:		Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE	
NAME			
Barratt's Chapel			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
Barratt's Chapel			
LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
North U.S. 113			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Frederica			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Delaware	19946	Kent	001
CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Commission on Archives and History of Peninsula Annual Conference			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Barratt's Chapel of the United Methodist Church, Inc.			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Frederica	Delaware	10	
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Kent County Court House, Recorder of Deeds Office			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
South State Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Dover	Delaware	10	
REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Historic American Buildings Survey, #De1-16			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Library of Congress.			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Washington, D.C.			

K-103

300
69)U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

NAME COMMON: Barratt's Chapel		STATE: Delaware	
NAME HISTORIC: Barratt's Chapel		COUNTY: Kent	
LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: North U.S. 113			
CITY OR TOWN: Frederica			
STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 001
CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments
OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Commission on Archives and History of Peninsula Annual Conference			
STREET AND NUMBER: Barratt's Chapel of the United Methodist Church, Inc.			
CITY OR TOWN: Frederica	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kent County Court House, Recorder of Deeds Office			
STREET AND NUMBER: South State Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Dover	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10	
REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey, #Del-16			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington, D.C.			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C.	STATE:	CODE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unspaced
	<div>(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Barratt's Chapel is a two-story brick meeting house with a west gable-end frontage.</p> <p>The south wall, facing the cemetery, is laid in Flemish bond with a glazed header pattern. In the center of this wall is a double door, flanked by two windows. Three second-story windows light the gallery.</p> <p>The west, or front, wall is laid in unglazed Flemish bond brick, with diaper patterns in glazed brick on the face of the attic story. Two belt courses appear on this facade; the lower one divides the first and second stories, and the upper one separates the second story from the attic. There are three doors in the first floor of this facade, and on the second story there are three windows. A window has been cut into the attic story, destroying a segment of the diapered brick design.</p> <p>The north wall is laid in common bond, with three windows on each story. The east gable wall is covered with stucco. An off-center doorway in this wall provides access to the chancel.</p> <p>Exterior shutters follow the Delaware tradition of solid shutters on the first floor, with louvered shutters above. The box cornices on the north and south facades are elaborately moulded, and return onto the gable end to create a seat to receive the bargeboard.</p> <p>The interior is arranged as a traditional aisled hall. Square posts extend from the ground to the rafters, in two rows parallel to the north and south sidewalls. A three-sided gallery is hung from these posts and from the north, west, and south walls. A wooden floor and simple open bench pews, finished in rustic fashion, appear to date from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Against the east</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-356a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)---

wall is a high two-level pulpit, now enclosed with a balustrade but formerly panelled. Although the balustrade was installed around the middle of the nineteenth century, the bench behind the pulpit is said to be part of the original furnishings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>In the summer of 1780 Philip Barratt gave the Methodist Society a plot of land, near the Murderkill River in Kent County, Delaware. The two-story brick meeting house, named in honor of Barratt, was begun immediately.</p> <p>Barratt's Chapel was the first church in Kent County that was built especially for Methodist worship, and one of the first two erected in Delaware.</p> <p>For two generations, the interior remained in an unfinished condition, with only dirt floors and no heat; in spite of these primitive conditions, Barratt's Chapel was the best meeting house in America belonging to the Methodists as a house of worship. St. George's in Philadelphia was, at this time, serving as a barracks and stable for the British army.</p> <p>Barratt's Chapel today is known as the "Cradle of American Methodism" because of its unique place in the development of the denomination. It was here that Dr. Thomas Coke and the Reverend Francis Asbury, later the first two Methodist bishops, met to make the preliminary arrangements for the formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. Here the sacramental ordinances were first administered to Methodist communicants on American soil by</p>			

Form 10-300a
(July 1967)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Delaware
COUNTY	Kent
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)---

duly authorized Methodist ministers, Dr. Coke and the Reverend Richard Whatcoat.

According to Scharf's History of Delaware, "The edifice was forty-two by forty-eight feet, two stories high, and had a vestry room connected with it. There is a tradition that the brick of which it was built were imported from Holland, which is improbable, as the clay in the immediate vicinity is as good as any in the world for bricks and the art of making bricks was already well-known...The house was furnished with a pulpit and occupied as a place of worship...The old fashioned high pulpit which was reached by a flight of steps and which almost concealed the preacher from his congregation has been remodeled to suit modern ideas; but the seat or wooden bench, upon which Bishops Coke and Asbury, and other pioneers of the church, sat, is still preserved as a memento. For the first sixty years of its existence the ground was the only flooring and the walls were left in an uncouth and primitive state."

OR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards and Company, 1888.

Barratt, Norris S. Barratt's Chapel and Methodism. Wilmington: Historical Society of Delaware, 1911.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNERS	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	.	.	.	39	01	26	
NE	.	.	.	75	27	34	
SE	.	.	.				
SW	.	.	.				

PROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Ten

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Rev. Charles E. Covington, President

ORGANIZATION

Commission on Archives and History of Peninsula....

DATE

8/23/72

STREET AND NUMBER:

36 Baltimore Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Rehoboth Beach

STATE

Delaware 19971

CODE

10

STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

E. Berkeley Tompkins
Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title

Director, Div. of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Date

9-22-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

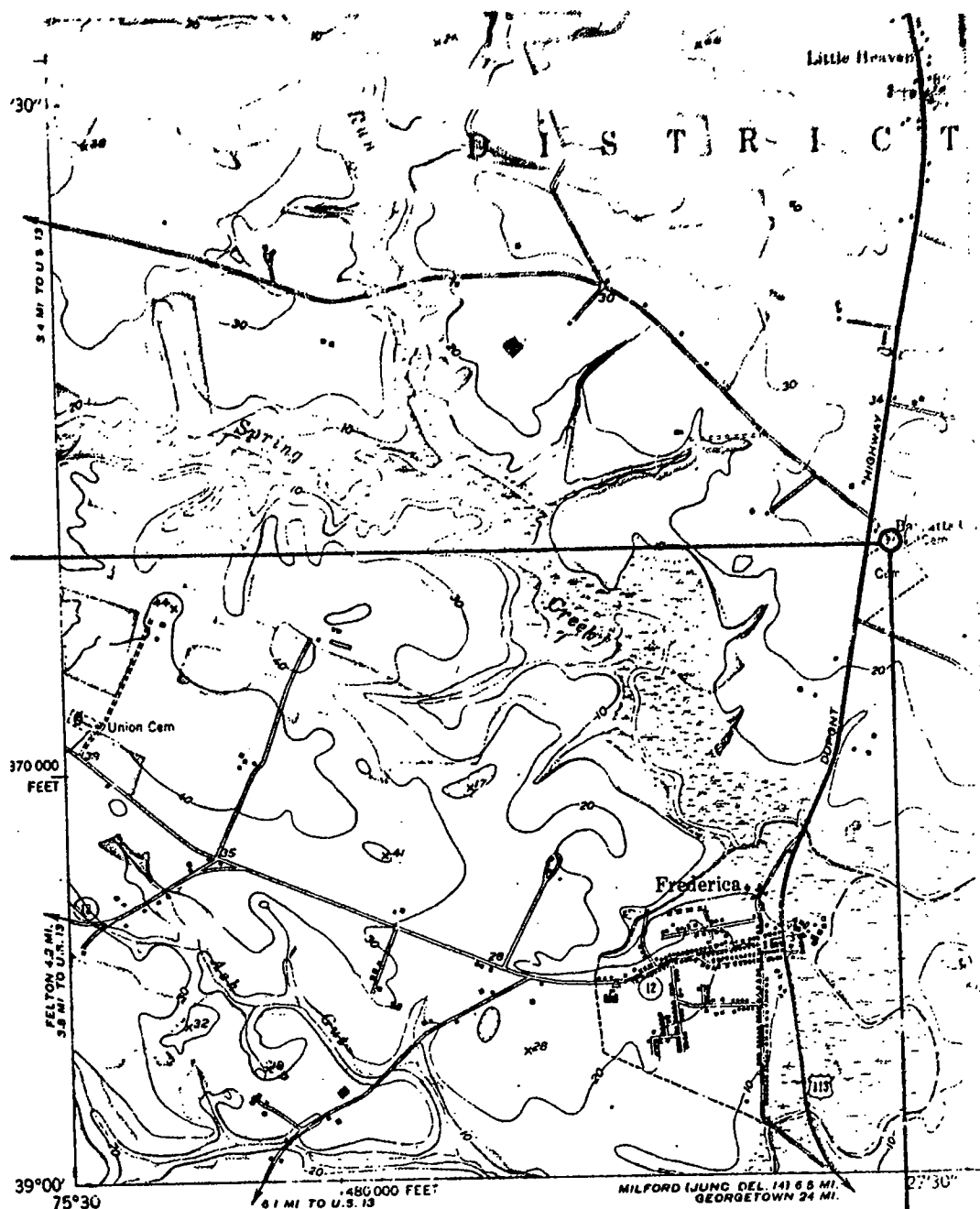
Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Mapped by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

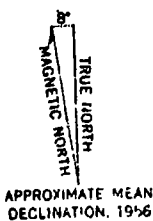
Control by USC&GS and USGS.

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1946. Topography by planetable surveys 1946. Revised by USGS 1956

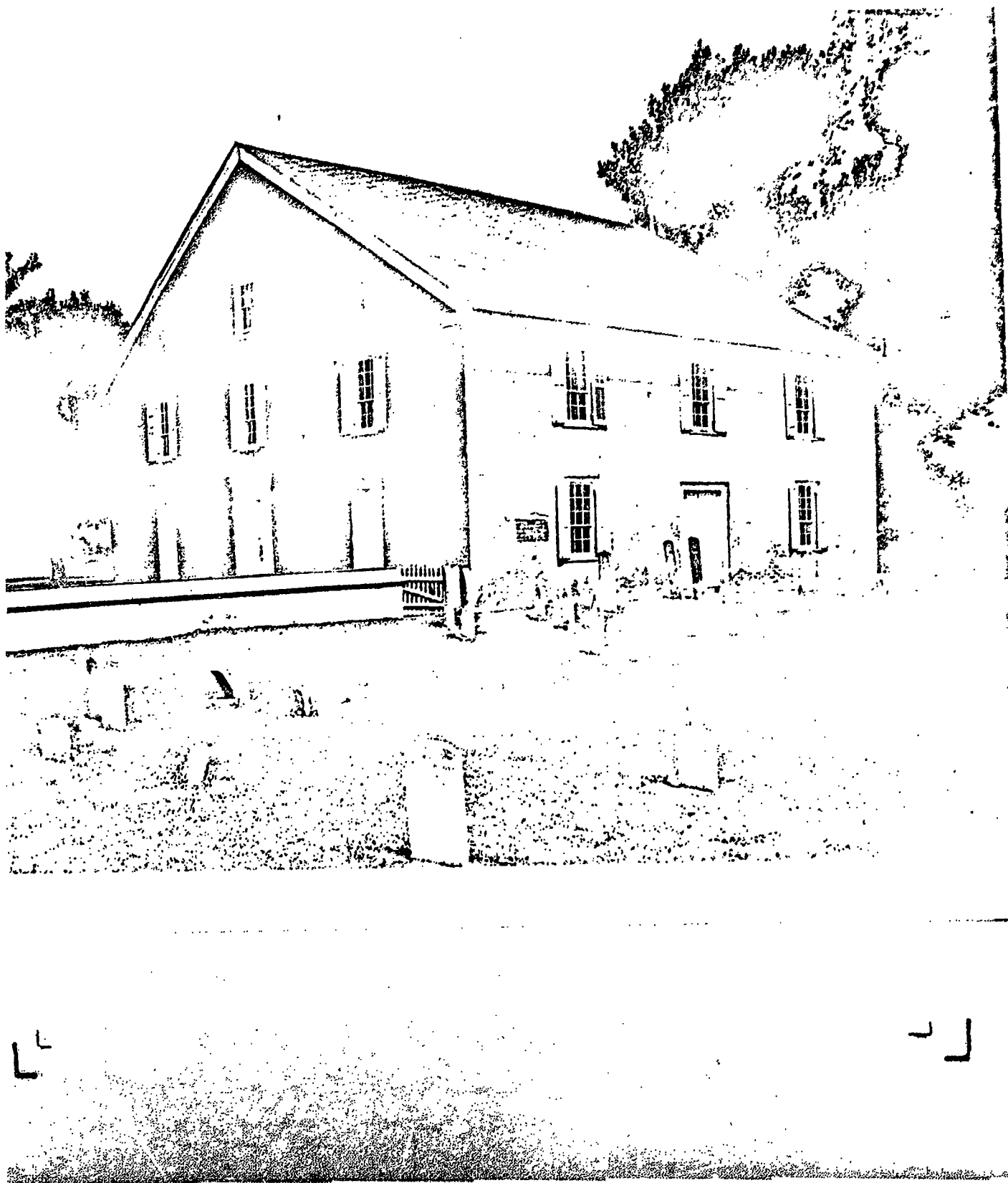
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 1218 (1955)

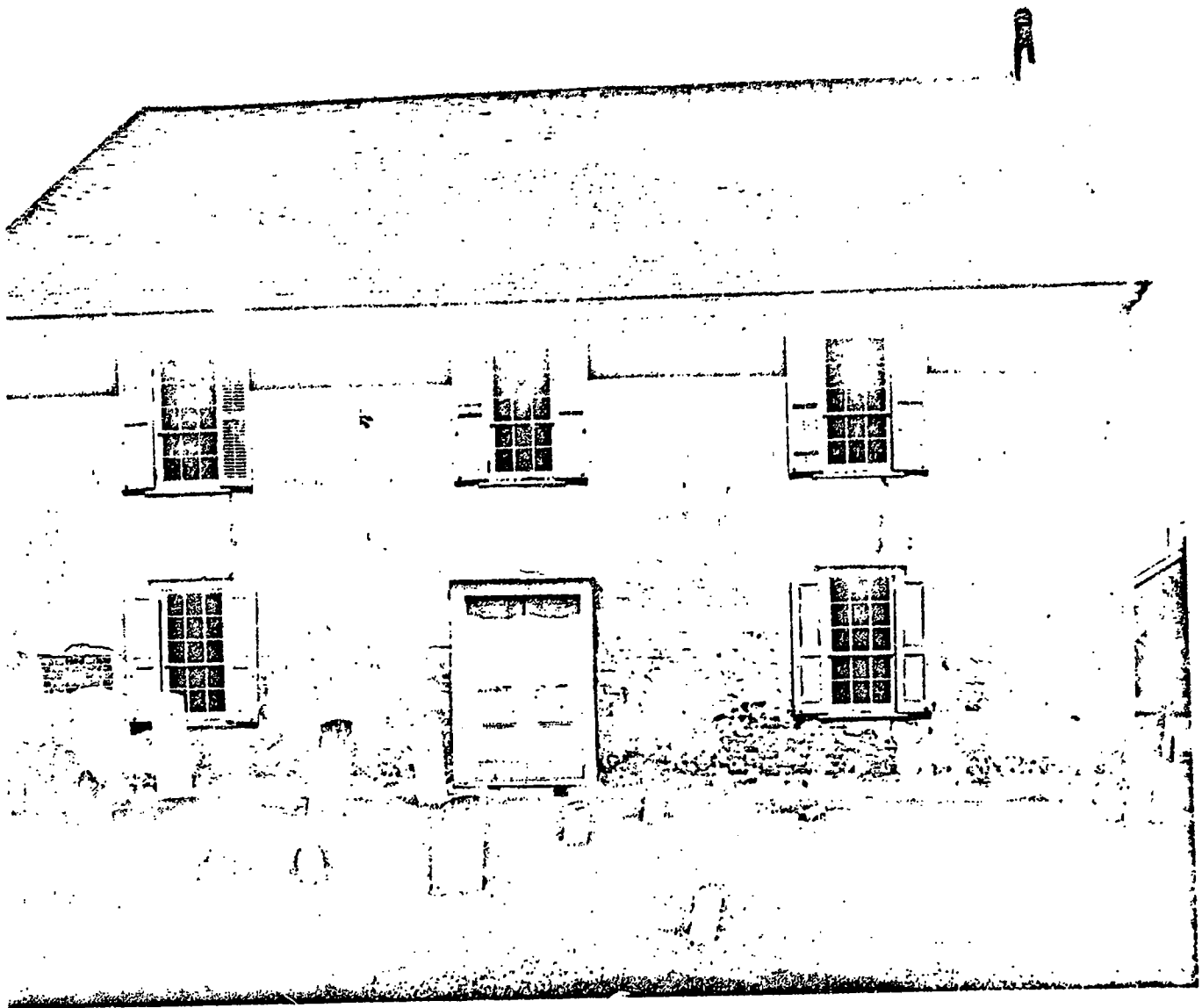
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Delaware coordinate system
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



75° 27' 34"





October 16, 1972

Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins, Director of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs and State Liaison Officer for the National Register, announced today that Barratt's Chapel, the "Cradle of Methodism", has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The old brick church, north of Frederica on Route 113, was the site of the first sacraments administered by authorized Methodist clergy in America. Here, in 1784, Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury met to lay plans for the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The spot where they met is marked by a brass plate in the floor of the chapel.

Barratt's Chapel was built in 1780, at the height of the American Revolution, by Waitman Sipple and Philip Barratt; it was the first church in Kent County to be built especially for Methodist worship, and one of the first two Methodist churches in Delaware. Because of its pre-eminent position in the history of the denomination, Barratt's Chapel has been placed in the care of a historical society formed by the Peninsula Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. This society, aided by architect John McCune, is currently renovating the chapel, cleaning the brickwork, and rebuilding the damaged east wall. When the current restoration is completed, the exterior of the chapel will appear much as it did when bishops Coke and Asbury met there in 1784.

The National Register of Historic Places is maintained by the National Park Service, in cooperation with historical agencies in each state. Once a place has been listed on the National Register, its preservation is a matter of public policy; any encroachment on a National Register property is subject to review under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

'Cradle of Methodism'



Barratt's Is Historic Place

FREDERICA — Barratt's Chapel, the "Cradle of Methodism" in America, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The old brick church, north of Frederica on Route 112, was the site of the first sacraments administered by authorized Methodist clergy in America.

Here, in 1784, Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury met to lay plans for the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The spot where they met is marked by a brass plate in the floor of the chapel.

Barratt's Chapel was built in 1780, at the height of the

American Revolution, by Waitman Sipple and Phillip Barratt. It was the first church in Kent County to be built especially for Methodist worship, and one of the first two Methodist churches in Delaware.

Because of its pre-eminent position in the history of the denomination, Barratt's Chapel has been placed in the care of a historical society formed by the Peninsula Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. This society, aided by architect John McCune, is currently renovating the chapel, cleaning the brickwork, and rebuilding the damaged east wall.

When the current

restoration is complete, the exterior of the chapel will appear much as it did when bishops Asbury met there.

Placement on the National Register was announced by E. Berkeley, director of the National Historic and Historic Affairs.

The National Historic Places are maintained by the National Service, in cooperation with historical agencies in each state. Once a place is listed on the Register, its preservation is a matter of public concern.

Last month at near Milford, Abi was also place register

Seaford Leader 10/18/72

Barratt's Chapel On Historical Record

Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins, Director of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs and State Liaison Officer for the National Register, announced today that Barratt's Chapel, the "Cradle of Methodism", has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The old brick church, north of Frederica on Route 113, was the site of the first sacraments administered by authorized Methodist clergy in America. Here, in 1784, Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury met to lay plans for the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The spot where they met is marked by a brass plate in the floor of the chapel.

Barratt's Chapel was built in 1780, at the height of the American Revolution, by Waltman Sipple and Philip Barratt; it was the first church in Kent County to be built especially for Methodist worship, and one of the first two Methodist churches in

Delaware. Because of its pre-eminent position in the history of the denomination, Barratt's Chapel has been placed in the care of a historical society formed by the Peninsula Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. This society, aided by architect John McCune, is currently renovating the chapel, cleaning the brickwork, and rebuilding the damaged east wall. When the current restoration is completed, the exterior of the chapel will appear much as it did when bishops Coke and Asbury met there in 1784.

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HABS. Del-18

DEL
1. FRED.V

2-

OLD BARRATT'S CHAPEL

Near Frederica - Kent County - Delaware

Owner: Trustees of Barratt's Chapel
Wilmington Conference Methodist Episcopal
Church.

Date of Erection: 1780

Builder: Built thru initiative of Philip Barratt
and Waitman Sipple.

Present Condition: Good. Services are held here
weekly, and building is well cared for.

Number of Stories: One story with balcony on
three sides.

Materials of Construction: Brick. Interior Walls
and ceiling plastered, Wood trim, Wood shingle roof.

Other Existing Records: Scharf's History of Delaware,
P. 1157. Conrad Vol. 2, P. 782

Additional Data: Rev. Thomas Coke and Bishop Asbury
met here November 14, 1784 and concerted those measures
by which the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized
in America.


District Officer

Reviewed July 8th 1936 THW

1. STATE <u>Delaware</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN OR VICINITY <u>Frederica</u> STREET NO. <u>St. 13</u> 1. HAVE SURVEY NO. AIA 5. TO BE FILLED IN BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">INDEX NO.</td> <td style="width: 33%;">NEGATIVE FILE</td> <td style="width: 33%;">PUBLISHED INDEX</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> 6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE & DESCRIPTION	INDEX NO.	NEGATIVE FILE	PUBLISHED INDEX				2. NAME <u>Barratt's Chapel</u> SEE SPACE BELOW FOR MAP OR DIRECTIONS 4. ORIGINAL OWNER <u>Philip Barratt</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Methodist Episcopal Conference</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>1780</u> ARCHITECT <u> </u> STYLE <u>Barratt</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>chapel</u> PRESENT USE <u>chapel</u> CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> NO. OF STOR. <u>2</u> NOTABLE FEATURES <u>pitched roof and attic</u>
INDEX NO.	NEGATIVE FILE	PUBLISHED INDEX					

7. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE (OTHER) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>IN DANGER</th> <th>PRESERVE</th> <th>REPAIR</th> <th>RESTORE</th> <th>RECONSTRUCT</th> </tr> <tr> <td>EXTERIOR</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>INTERIOR</td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> 9. POSSIBLE USE	IN DANGER	PRESERVE	REPAIR	RESTORE	RECONSTRUCT	EXTERIOR					INTERIOR					8. NATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VERY HIGH STATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HIGH COMMUNITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOTABLE OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> MENTION 10. NEIGHBORHOOD CONDITIONS <u>Very good</u> ZONED <u>no</u> CLASS
IN DANGER	PRESERVE	REPAIR	RESTORE	RECONSTRUCT												
EXTERIOR																
INTERIOR																

11. AVAILABLE FILES <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>MEASURED</td> <td>DIT PHOTOS</td> <td>FIELD REPORTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DRAWINGS</td> <td>OTHER</td> <td>RESEARCH REPORTS</td> </tr> </table> 13. REFERENCES: AUTHOR, TITLE AND PAGES <u>Federal Writers Project De. Guide 373.</u>	MEASURED	DIT PHOTOS	FIELD REPORTS	DRAWINGS	OTHER	RESEARCH REPORTS	12. OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>yes</u> FEE CONTROL BY <u>M. E. church</u> 14. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>P. R. Horsey, Dover Del.</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>August 1961.</u>
MEASURED	DIT PHOTOS	FIELD REPORTS					
DRAWINGS	OTHER	RESEARCH REPORTS					



LOCATION

PHOTOGRAPHS



Cradle of Methodism, Sacrament of Lord's
 Supper first administered in America by
 authorized Methodist preachers to Methodist
 Communicants.

Kent Co. Survey 1965-69

Name of Building Barratt's Chapel
Location Route 113, near Frederica Map No. _____
Date Built c. 1780 Name of Builder _____
Present Owner _____ Present Use _____

EVALUATION

Historical and Cultural Significance

1. Broad Historical Values "Cradel of Methodism"
2. Identification with Historic Personages or Events Francis Asbury
visited it.
3. Architectural or landscape values old burying grounds surrounding it.

Suitability

1. Extent of surviving material All
2. Adequacy of property boundaries excellent

Future

1. Possible future use Church
2. Imminent danger of destruction no

Physical Condition

1. Construction brick Number of stories one
2. Present state excellent
3. Brief description of architecture Almost square without any
architectural pretensions.

SURVEY DATA

Organization sponsoring survey Milford Historical Society
Name of Investigator Roberta McClearn Date of Survey _____
Source of information: Personal Visit _____ Date of Visit _____
Books _____ Names _____
Public Records _____
Other _____
Comments _____

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
LOCUS IDENTIFICATION FORM

DELAWARE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
HALL OF RECORDS
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901
(302) 678-5314



Form CRS

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

CRS no. K103
Quad Fredonia
SPO map no. 12-13-18
Hundred S. Mendenhall

YOUR NAME: Alban + Governors TELE: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

ORGANIZATION (if any): DHCA DATE: 2/20/77

1. TYPE OF LOCUS: a. structure ☒ c. archaeological site _____
b. district _____ d. other _____

2. NAME OF LOCUS: Barratts Chapel

3. STREET LOCATION: east of junction of 371 + Rt. 113

4. OWNER'S NAME: _____ TELE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

5. THREATS TO LOCUS: (check more than one if necessary)
- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| a. none known <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | d. developers _____ |
| b. zoning _____ | e. deterioration _____ |
| c. roads _____ | f. other _____ |
- 7-20-77
Excellent

6. SURROUNDINGS OF LOCUS: (check more than one if necessary)
- | | |
|---|---|
| a. fallow field _____ | d. scattered buildings _____ |
| b. cultivated field <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | e. densely built up _____ |
| c. woodland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | f. other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cemetery |

7. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER SURVEYS:
- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| TITLE: _____ | NO. _____ |
| TITLE: _____ | NO. _____ |
| TITLE: _____ | NO. _____ |

8. USE REVERSE FOR SKETCH MAP AND COMMENTS.
Please indicate position of locus in relation to
geographical landmarks such as streams and roads.

file: CRS K-103



140011 MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY GEORGE FAYARD
140011 MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY GEORGE FAYARD

k-103

BARRATT'S CHAPEL



Barratt's Chapel Museum and Curator's Home

FREDERICKA, DELAWARE

THE CRADLE OF METHODISM -

Charles E. Covington, S.T.M.

Ten miles south of Dover, the Capital of Delaware, beside the highway, U.S. 113, there is an old brick Church nestled among the trees with a cemetery on two sides of it. That Church is Barratt's Chapel.

In 1778 Freeborn Garrettson preached at the home of a Mr. Lewis near Johnny Cake Landing, now Frederica. Philip Barratt, Waitman Sipple and Johnathan Sipple and their families were so much affected by his preaching that they formed themselves into a society. At first the society met at their houses, but soon they felt the need of more room; and Asbury encouraged them to build a chapel.

In the summer of 1780 Philip Barratt contributed a plot of ground to the society with the understanding that they would build a preaching house thereon. A two-story brick church was started immediately. The suspicion attached to the patriotism of the Methodists caused considerable opposition to the erection of the church within the neighborhood. While the church was under construction, a gentleman of

that area inquired what use was to be made of the building. He was informed that the building was a church and was to be the place of worship for the Methodists. He replied, "It is unnecessary to build such a house, for by the time the war is over, a corn-crib will hold them all."

That fall the church building was ready for occupancy and was dedicated as Barratt's Chapel, in honor of the donor of the land, Philip Barratt. It was the first church built in Kent County by the Methodists, and one of the first two erected in Delaware.² For two generations it remained in an unfinished condition - with only first floors, rough hewn seats, and no heat; yet with all of its limitations, at its completion it was recognized as the Cathedral of Methodism because it was the best meeting house in America belonging to the Methodists.³

Today the Church's exterior remains practically the same as when it was completed in

² John Leidesdorff, *A History of the Rise of Methodism in America*, p. 165, Philadelphia: T. Van Nostrand, 1817.

³ Thomas Chestnut Methodist Church was the first church owned by the Methodists in the State of Delaware, but it was a gift from Dr. Samuel Mifflin.

⁴ George's in Philadelphia was, at the time, a barracks and stable for the British Army.

1780. However, some minor changes have been made to the interior.

On November 11, 1784, Barratt's Chapel entertained a quarterly conference over which Ashbury was to preside. This was the regular fall Quarterly Meeting at which the semi-annual changes took place among the preachers laboring on the Peninsula. It is reported that there were over a thousand people present for this meeting and among the number were many preachers. To name a few: Dr. Samuel McGee, who was a clergyman of the Church of England; Francis Sherv, Caleb B. Peddie, Joseph Hartley, newborn Garretson, James Cromwell, John Dickens, Richard Whateout, and Dr. Thomas Coke, who had just arrived from England.

Dr. Coke preached to the noble assembly on "Thirst Our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption."

Ezekiel Copper says of this meeting, "While Coke was preaching Ashbury came into the congregation. A solemn pause and deep silence took place at the close of the sermon as an interest for introductions and salutations. Mr. Ashbury ascended the pulpit, and without making himself known by words, clasped the Doctor in his arms, and greeted him with the holy

salutation of primitive Christianity. The other preachers at the same time were melted into sympathy and fear. The congregation caught the glowing emotion, and the whole assembly, as if struck by shock of heavenly electricity, burst into a flood of tears. Every heart appeared overflowing with love and fellowship, and an ecstasy of joy and gladness ensued. I can never forget the affecting scene."

Dr. Coke, assisted by Whatcoat, after administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to five or six hundred communicants, held a love feast. Not knowing that they had been ordained by Wesley and others in England, Asbury was shocked at such action. Later he approved. Also that day Dr. Coke baptized sixteen persons at Barratt's Chapel. This was the first time that the sacramental ordinances were administered by duly authorized Methodist ministers on American soil.

After the worship service was over, Dr. Coke, Francis Asbury, and ten other preachers went to dinner at the home of the Widow of Philip Barratt, which was about one-half mile

4. Asbury, *History of the American Methodist*,
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

behind the church. There Dr. Coke explained the purpose of his visit and the burden of his heart to Asbury. Dr. Coke first proposed that he ordain Asbury for his episcopal duties and leave Whatcoat and Vasey as elders to carry on the work with him. Furthermore, the societies would be formed into a church in which the sacraments would be administered, a liturgy would be used, and the articles of faith as altered by John Wesley from the articles of the Church of England would be accepted as the basic doctrine.

Asbury refused to consent to his autocratic policy of ordination and organization and insisted that, if the societies were to be formed into a church, all the itinerant brethren must be consulted. Until then Coke could wait. Thus, Coke's expectation, that he and Asbury could come to an agreement, settle all issues, and dictate the policy of American Methodism without consultation with the ministers, failed to materialize. Asbury had other ideas, and his will proved to be the stronger.

"It was not that Asbury refused Wesley's commission; but he preferred to act with the full sanction and approval of his brethren, if this could be obtained. It was much to have been

selected by Wesley and to enjoy his confidence, but it was noted to have the attendance of the men whom he was to rule as superintendent.

That afternoon the ministers present were consulted concerning the plan of calling a conference on Christmas Eve to decide the momentous questions of whether and how they were to be joined into a Church. The present cordially approved of the plan and Freeborn Garrettson was sent "like an arrow" to call the preachers together for the Conference to be held at Lovely Lane Chapel, Baltimore, Maryland, on December 24, 1784. That conference formally organized the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

Today Barratt's Chapel is widely known as "The Cradle of Methodism" because of its origin place in the development of American Methodism. It was here that Bishop Ashbury and Dr. Coke met and made the preliminary arrangements for the formation of the new church - The Methodist Episcopal Church in America - and that the sacramental ordinances

1. James W. L. Sibbald, Lucius, and James M. Dixon, *The United Methodism of Methodism*, p. 208. New York: The Methodist Magazine Publishing Co., 1900.

were legally administered to Methodist communicants for the first time on American soil by duly authorized Methodist preachers - Coke and Whatcoat.

To Methodists everywhere these facts should invest Barratt's Chapel, "The Cradle of Methodism," with deep religious significance and real historic value.

This shrine is owned and maintained by the Peninsula Conference Historical Society. In 1861 a museum and curator's residence was constructed and a full time curator was assigned. Worship services are not conducted regularly but each year an anniversary service is held on the second Sunday of November to commemorate our heritage.



